

From the Upper Chamber



Senate Information Office ♦ 201 Legislative Office Building ♦ Atlanta, Georgia ♦ 404.656.0028

Report for Tuesday, February 26, 2008

The twenty-third day of the 2008 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Balfour** of the 9th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 509-514, Senate Resolutions 1020 and 1024, and House Bills 241, 373, 732, 815, 904, 972, 1066, 1126, 1250 and 1255 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

After the morning roll call, Sen. **Steve Henson** of the 41st led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Reverend **Wendell Phillips** of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to discuss the Sunday sales bills that are up for consideration in the Senate today.

Sen. **Vincent Fort** of the 39th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to clarify his position on his amendment to the *Public Hospital Integrity Act*, which was adopted in the Senate last week.

SR 1016-1019, 1021-1023 and 1025-1027 were read and adopted.

The clerk read SB 332, which authorizes MARTA to extend its existing rail system into additional Georgia counties by allowing MARTA service districts to provide bus and rail, rail only or bus only services.

Sen. **Curt Thompson** of the 5th took the well to present the bill and yielded to questions from Sen. **Renee Unterman** of the 45th.

Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17th took the well to speak against the bill.

Sen. **Doug Stoner** of the 6th took the well to address his concerns with the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd.

Sen. **Kasim Reed** of the 35th took the well to speak in support of the bill.

Sen. **David Adelman** of the 42nd took the well to support SB 332 and address some of the concerns on the bill. He yielded to questions from Senators **Douglas, Thompson** of the 5th, **Stoner** and **Balfour**.

SB 332 passed by a vote of 34 to 18.

The clerk read SR 831, which recognizes the People's Republic of China for its economic and cultural ties with Georgia. Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd took the rostrum to introduce members of several Chinese alliance organizations in Georgia.

The clerk read SB 358, which updates Georgia's securities law.

Sen. **Greg Goggans** of the 7th took the rostrum to introduce the first *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **James Barber** of Douglas. Sen. **Jack Murphy** of the 27th then took the well to introduce Dr. **John Hill** of Cumming.

The clerk read SR 849, which recognizes today as the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Day at the Capitol. Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th took the rostrum to speak to the resolution.

Sen. **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th took the well to present SB 358.

The Committee Substitute to SB 358 was unanimously adopted.

SB 358 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The clerk read SB 473, which changes the requirements for a "certified public accountant" certificate to one year of continuous experience in accounting.

Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** of the 28th took the well to present the bill.

SB 473 passed by a vote of 49 to 1.

The clerk read SB 400, which allows investigators of the Georgia Forestry Commission to issue citations to those found guilty of arson.

Sen. **Ross Tolleson** of the 20th took the well to introduce the bill and yielded to questions from Sen. **Harp**.

SB 400 passed by a vote of 51 to 0.

The clerk read SB 385, which allows for the issuance of permits to allow limousine carriers to sell alcoholic beverages.

Sen. **Balfour** took the well to present the bill. He yielded to questions from Sen. **Nan Orrock** of the 36th.

SB 385 passed by a vote of 40 to 11.

The clerk read SB 454, which expands Sunday alcohol sales by allowing any county that is authorized to sell alcohol on Sundays to authorize the sale of alcohol at public stadiums and auditoriums on Sunday.

Sen. **Unterman** took the well to present the bill.

Sen. **Harp** took the well to speak in support of the bill. He yielded to questions from Sens. **Orrock** and **Bill Jackson** of the 24th.

Sen. **Tolleson** took the well to discuss potential actions to be taken by the House if SB 454 passes through the Senate.

SB 454 passed by a vote of 30 to 20.

The clerk read SB 383, which requires the Commissioner of Insurance to develop flexible guidelines for coverage and approval of Health Savings Account eligible high-deductible plans. Sen. **Hill** of the 32nd took the well to present the bill.

Sen. **Orrock** took the well to raise some concerns with the bill.

Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd took the well to share her thoughts on the bill.

Sen. **Hill** of the 32nd took the well to close the debate.

The Committee Substitute to SB 383 was unanimously adopted.

SB 383 passed by substitute by a vote of 36 to 12.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 27.

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